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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the third paragraph on page 3 as follows:

According to the present invention, the image editing apparatus reads the first image related information about a first image and ~~with~~ the second image related information about a second image stored in a recording device, and compares the image related information between the images, reads from the video effect recording device a video effect during image switching according to image related information similar in ~~to~~ a predetermined range ~~when there is the image related information similar in the predetermined range~~ between the image related information about the first and second images as a result of the comparison, and outputs to a display device, a recording medium, or another communications equipment an image generated by applying a video effect at a switch point between the first and second images read from the recording device using the video effect. Therefore, the user only has to select images to be joined, and a video effect can be automatically set on a joint between moving picture data.